

GRAZING MANAGEMENT ENHANCEMENT CONSERVATION SECURITY PROGRAM



STOCKPILING TALL FESCUE

WHAT:

Lengthen the grazing season by managing for stockpiled Tall fescue. Use ammonium nitrate or stabilized urea as the nitrogen source.

WHY:

Stockpiled tall fescue grows better than other forages in the fall and holds its quality through the non-growing season (winter) better than any other forage. Tall fescue already has roots developed so it begins growth quicker than winter annuals like wheat or ryegrass.

WHEN:

Graze or clip in late summer. Fertilize in late August to early September. Graze in November or later.

WHERE:

All pasture established in tall fescue or tall fescue clover mix with at least 70% tall fescue.

HOW MUCH:

Stockpile 0.5 to 1 acre per 1000 pound animal unit. Apply 60 pounds of actual nitrogen per acre. The enhancement rate per acre per year of fescue pasture stockpiled is \$20.00.

HOW:

1. **Benefits of Stockpiling:** Stockpiling tall fescue pasture for winter grazing reduces the amount of hay fed. Stockpiling can produce an additional ton of standing forage per acre. On average this standing acre will provide 54 days (approximately 2 months) of grazing. Stockpiling can replace a ton of hay for each acre stockpiled. (Cost of stockpiling 60 lbs. of Nitrogen, 60 lb./N X \$0.35 lb./N = \$21; value of 1 ton of hay \$50 for a savings of \$29.00) .
2. **How to Stockpile:** Graze or clip in late August or early September. Between August 15 and September 15 apply nitrogen and other nutrients if recommended by UT soil test. When fall rains are predicted remove livestock, apply 60 lb. of Nitrogen/Ac. (180 lbs. of Ammonia Nitrate/Ac.). Grass and grass/clover mixes respond well to fall N application. Keep cattle off until after frost or November 1, and begin strip grazing. Allow livestock no more than 4 days grazing on any one strip. Single strand temporary fencing may be used for strip grazing. Start strip grazing at the water point and move the temporary fence forward every 4 days or less. No back fence is needed.